

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been canceled. Applicants amend claim 6 and add new claim 7 to recite a particular type of display unit. No new matter has been added. Claims 3-4 and 6-7 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,172 to Takano in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,159543 to Yamawaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,288 to Ramsey et al. Applicants have canceled the rejected claims.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,818 to Frube et al., and further in view of Ramsey et al. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cited Fig. 2; col. 5, lines 54-59; and col. 6, lines 12-20 of Takano as alleged disclosure of "monitoring the display unit to see whether the display unit is in a halted mode or not." Page 4, lines 8-9 of the Office Action. Such portions of Takano do not, however, disclose this feature. Fig. 2 illustrates the components of a camera as described in Takano. It includes a display portion 208 that displays information such as shutter speed and aperture. Please see, e.g., col. 3, lines 21-23 of Takano. Col. 5, lines 54-59 of Takano merely include a description of camera operations such as rewinding a film, restarting a program process when not all of the film is exposed, and detecting line of sight and focus. Col. 6, lines 12-20 of Takano merely include a description of switching clock frequencies and an exposure duration. Therefore, as stated above, the cited portions of Takano do not disclose monitoring a display unit, let alone to see whether it is in a halted mode or not. The Examiner relied upon Ramsey et

al. as a combining reference that allegedly discloses the feature of switching a clock frequency to optimize a DC/DC converter. Since the cited portions of Takano do not disclose the features of the claimed invention as alleged by the Examiner, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine these references in the manner proposed by the Examiner. There is no suggestion or motivation in either reference to combine the film rewinding, film exposure detection, and line of sight/focus detection described in the cited portions of Takano with Ramsey et al. to yield the claimed features of monitoring a display unit to see whether it is in a limited display mode, and switching the clock frequency of the DC/DC converter to the optimum level for that limited mode. It was improper hindsight from the claimed invention to combine the references in the manner proposed.

The Examiner acknowledged that Takano does not disclose "display color number limiting mode" and relied upon Irube et al. as a combining reference that allegedly discloses this feature. Once again, however, the Examiner cited portions of Irube et al. that do not disclose this feature. The cited portions of Irube et al., col. 15, lines 38-51, merely describe elements (button and dial) that are operable in a camera unit for zooming in on a display image and scrolling the zoomed-in partial display region around the image. The zoom and scroll mechanism described therein concerns only an interface to manipulate a display to zoom in and scroll the zoomed-in display. As such, there is no disclosure or suggestion of any "display color number limiting mode" or any limited display mode that Irube et al. disclosed as would affect the power consumption of the display. Such portions of Irube et al. do not even suggest any consideration for power consumption. It would, therefore, not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner because the references do not

suggest such a combination. The combination of references in the manner proposed was improper hindsight from the claimed invention.

At most, a combination of Ramsey et al. with Irube et al. and Takano would yield the technique for conversion as illustrated in Fig. 6 of Ramsey et al. Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the references, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest,

“monitoring the display unit to see whether the display unit is in a display color number limiting[/partial display] mode or not; determining a switching clock frequency of the DC/DC converter to maintain an efficiency of the DC/DC converter at an optimum level in the display color number limiting[/predetermined low-power consumption] mode; and switching the frequency to the determined switching clock frequency, and operating the DC/DC converter at this frequency.” as recited in claims 3 and 4. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano in view of Yamawaki and Ramsey et al., and further in view of Irube et al. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 and new claim 7 depend from claims 3 and 4, respectively, and are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons. The Examiner relied upon Yamawaki as a combining reference that allegedly discloses a DC/DC converter that can be provided with a plurality of frequencies. Therefore, even assuming that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine this reference, the addition of this reference would not cure the deficiencies of the cited references described above with respect to claims 3 and 4.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that claims 6 and 7 are patentable over the cited references for at least these reasons.

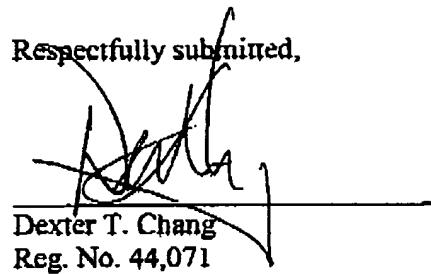
The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional U.S. patent made of record, but not applied, does not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether this reference is considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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DTC: jc